

## Message Text

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67

ORIGIN PRS-01

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S/S - O: L. MA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 032974

TOSEC 159

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ZIEGLER INTERVIEW

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 13

WE MONITORED THE FOLLOWING ON NBC EVENING NEWS WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 12:

CHANCELLOR: NOT LONG AGO CHARLES COLSON, WHO IS RICHARD  
NIXON'S FORMER SPECIAL WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL, TOLD NBC NEWS  
THAT IN DECEMBER OF 1973 MR. NIXON WAS CRITICAL OF GERALD  
FORD, THEN VICE PRESIDENT, AND HIGHLY CRITICAL OF HENRY  
KISSINGER, THEN AS NOW SECRETARY OF STATE. NO ONE HAS  
TURNED UP ANY EVIDENCE OF SOME OF THE CABLES SIGNED BY  
KISSINGER WHICH WERE DESCRIBED BY COLSON. SOME FORMER  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT COLSON AND KISSIN-  
GER WERE OFTEN ANTAGONISTS. NOW WE HAVE HEARD OF MR.  
NIXON'S REACTION TO COLSON'S STORY. IT CAME OUT IN AN  
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INTERVIEW JIM HARTZ OF THE "TODAY" PROGRAM HAD WITH RONALD

ZIEGLER, STILL ONE OF NIXON'S CLOSEST AIDES. HERE IS  
ZIEGLER TELLING OF MR. NIXON'S REACTION WHEN HE LEARNED OF  
THE STORY TOLD BY COLSON:

ZIEGLER: "I WENT INTO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, INTO FORMER  
PRESIDENT NIXON'S OFFICE, ON SATURDAY AND HE WAS JUST HANG-

ING UP THE PHONE. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD CALLED PRESIDENT  
FORD TO AGAIN EXPRESS HIS CONFIDENCE IN HIM, TO MAKE SURE  
THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AT NO TIME DID HE DOUBT HIS ABI-  
LITY. YOU KNOW, THEY'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR A NUMBER OF  
YEARS AND HAVE ALWAYS HAD A GREAT DEAL OF RESPECT FOR ONE  
ANOTHER. BUT HE WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO PRESIDENT FORD  
THAT HE FEELS, AS I SAID, THAT HE HAS TAKEN HOLD OF THE  
OFFICE AND IS DOING A GOOD JOB, AND THAT HE HAS HIS  
SUPPORT."

HARTZ: "DID HE CALL SECRETARY KISSINGER AS WELL?"

ZIEGLER: "YES, HE DID. HE CALLED SECRETARY KISSINGER ON  
SUNDAY, BEFORE HE LEFT FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, TO WISH HIM  
WELL ON HIS VERY IMPORTANT TRIP TO TE MIDDLE EAST -- THE  
NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH ARE SO IMPORTANT TO THAT AREA OF THE  
WORLD AND SO IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES. AND THEY  
KNOW ONE ANOTHER WELL ENOUGH. PRESIDENT NIXON ALWAYS HAD,  
AND STILL DOES, GREAT RESPECT FOR KISSINGER."

CHANCELLOR: MORE OF THAT INTERVIEW JIM HARTZ HAD WITH RON  
ZIEGLER WILL BE SHOWN ON THE "TODAY" PROGRAM TOMORROW  
MORNING.

INGERSOLL

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